

HUNT FOR WOLVERINE DEAD ENDS

MARVEL

1

SOULE
ROSANAS
GURU-eFX



SPAIN.

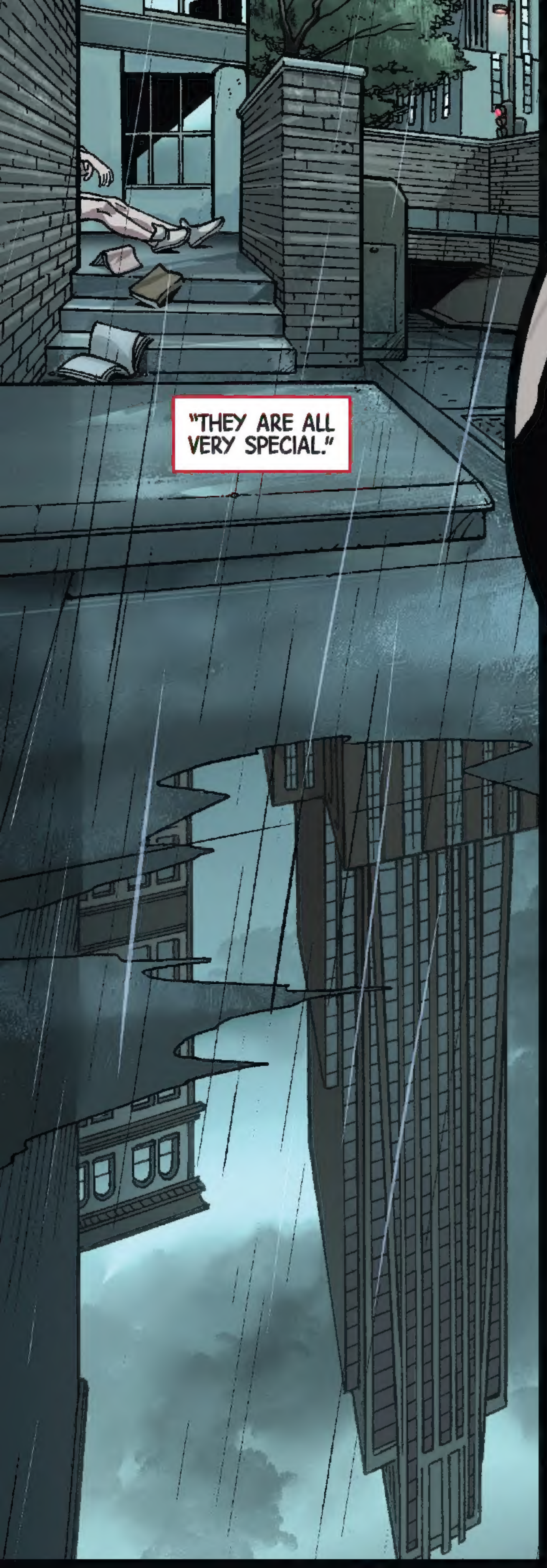
"THIS IS ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ."

"SIXTEEN YEARS OLD. A STUDENT FROM BARCELONA."

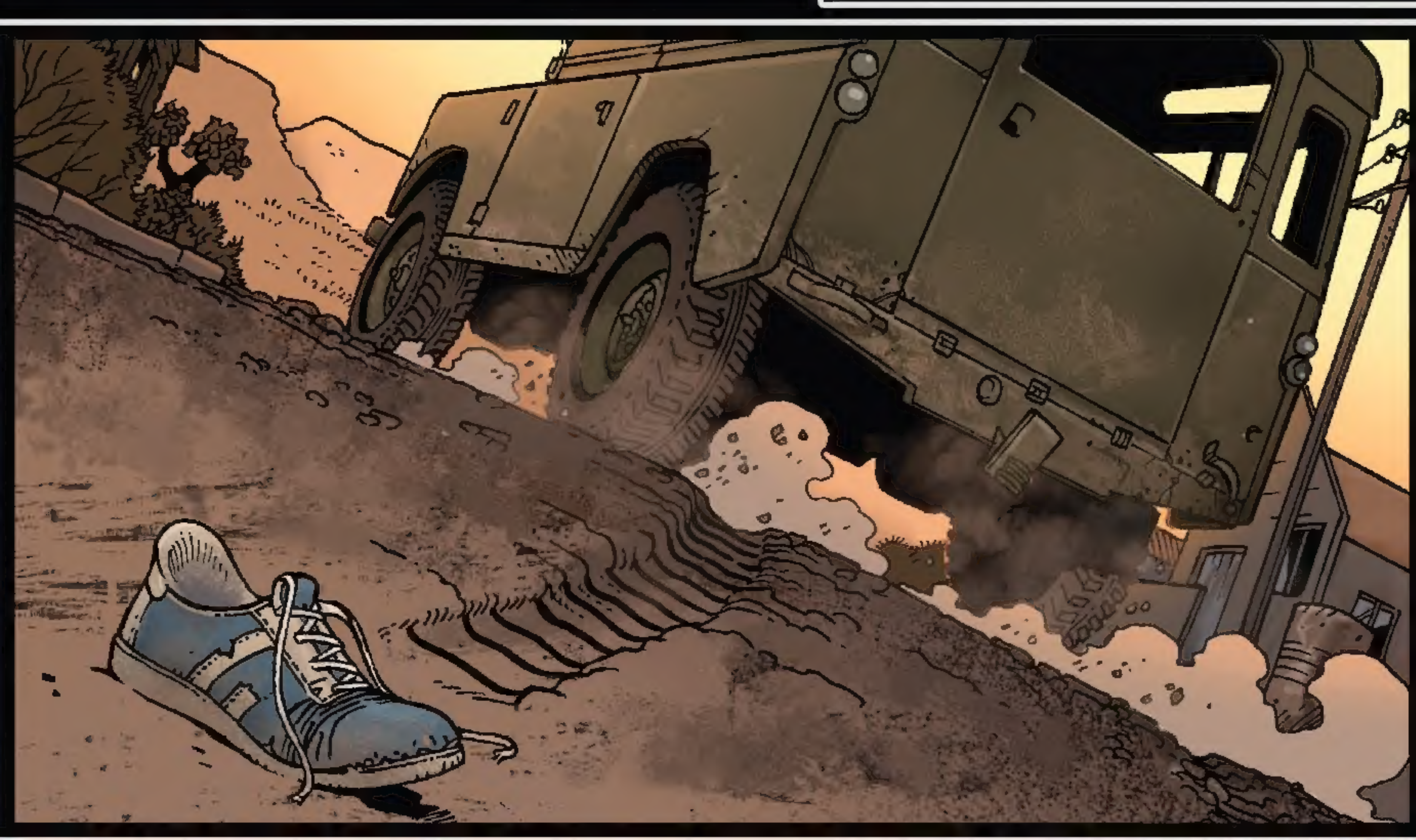
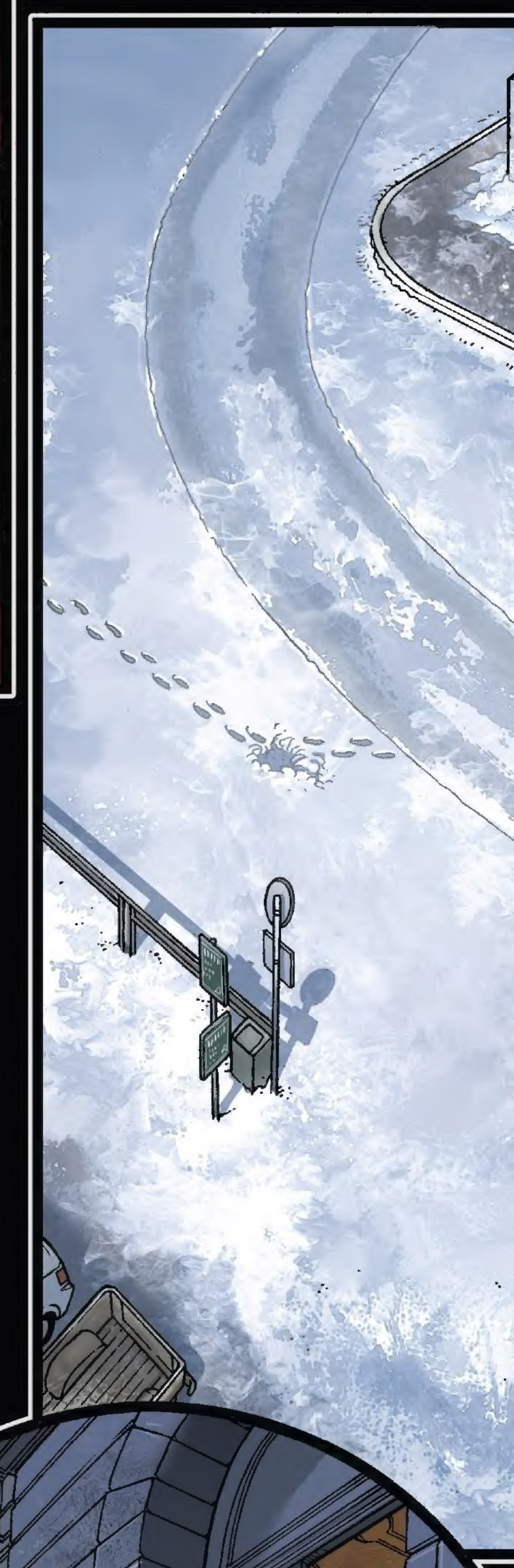
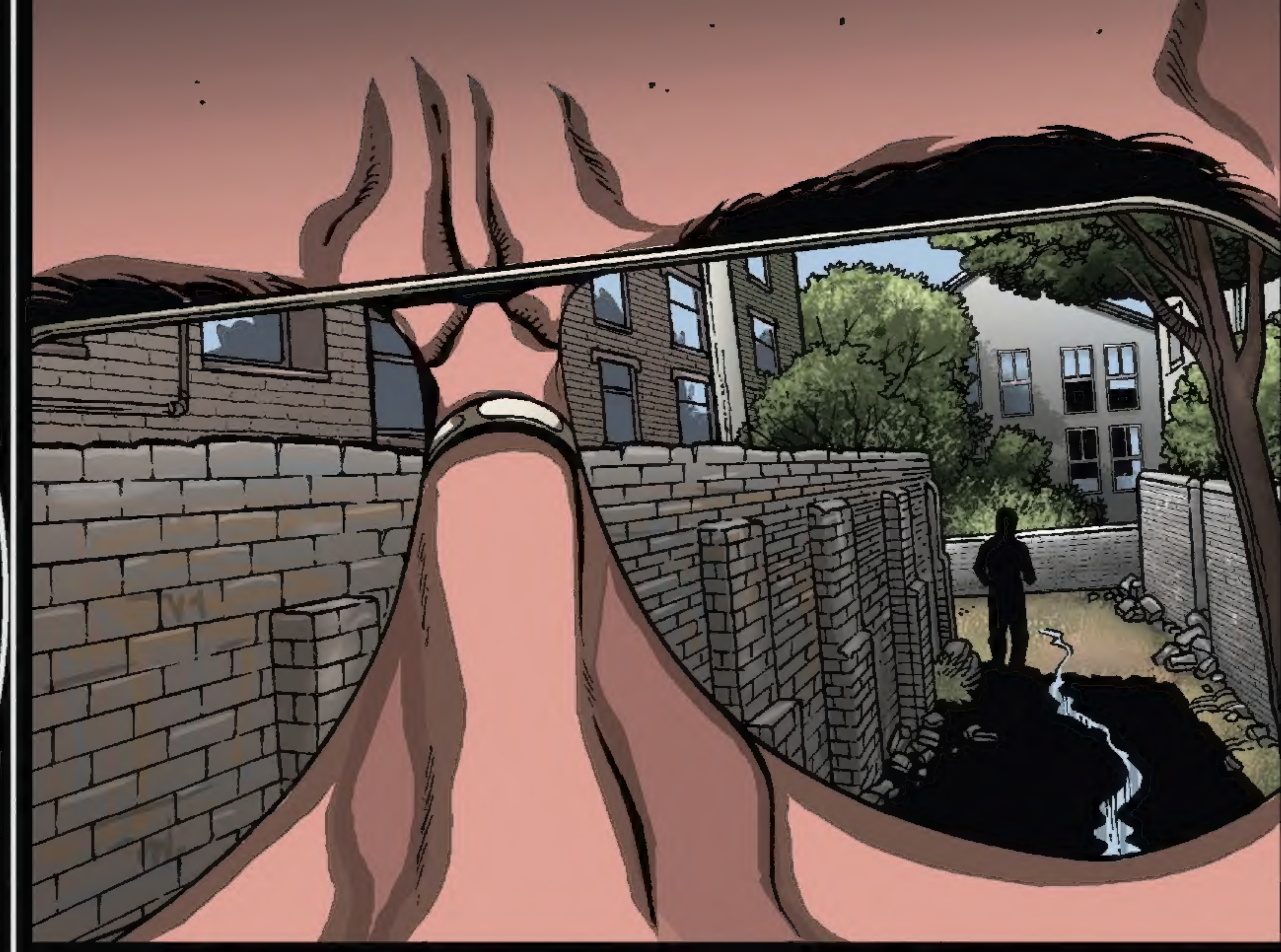
CARRER DE CATALUNYA

"HE IS VERY SPECIAL."

COPISTER



"THEY ARE ALL
VERY SPECIAL."



HUNT FOR WOLVERINE DEAD ENDS

WOLVERINE DIED, ENTOMBED IN MOLTEN ADAMANTIUM. THE X-MEN TOOK HIS METAL-ENCASED BODY AND HID IT AWAY, KEEPING ITS LOCATION SECRET.

BUT NOTHING STAYS BURIED. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

AS TEAMS OF X-MEN, AVENGERS AND OTHER INVESTIGATORS SEARCHED FOR WOLVERINE'S BODY, THE CLUES BEGAN TO PILE UP... AND THE MOMENT HAS COME TO PUT THEM TOGETHER.

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TRAFFIC LOOKS STEADY ALL THE WAY TO CENTRAL PARK, MR. STARK.

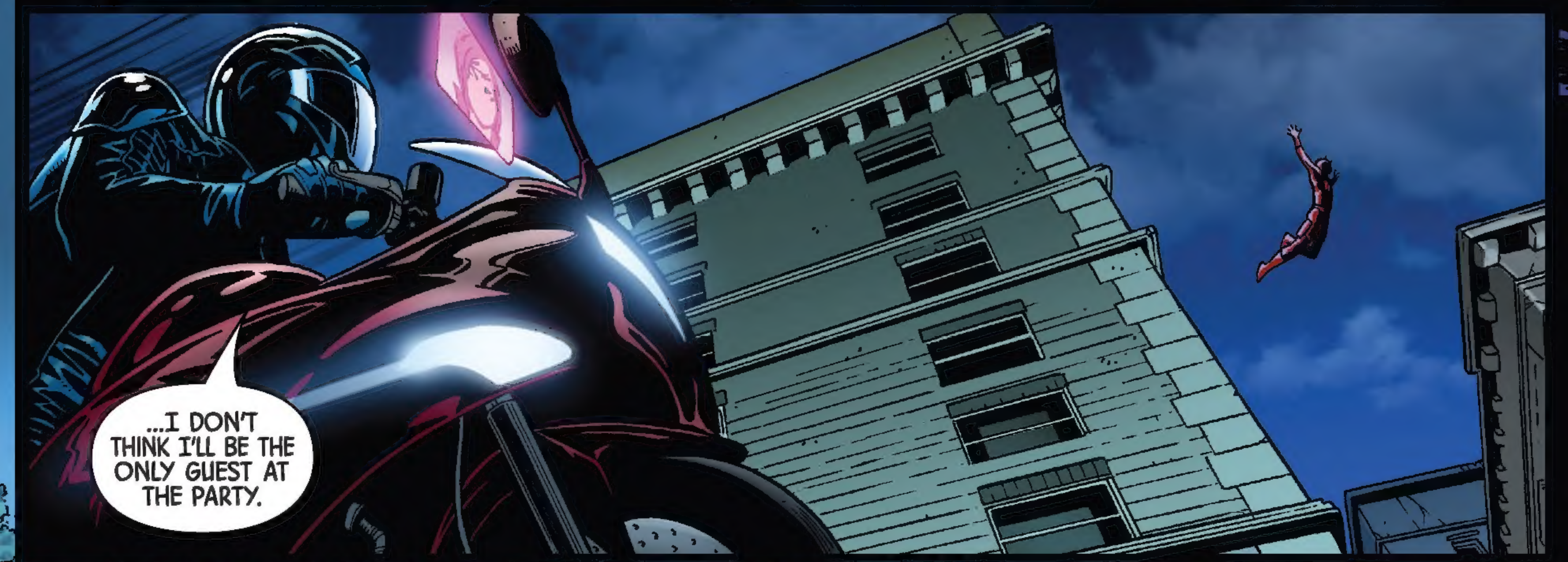
ANY IDEA WHY YOU WERE SUMMONED TO THE MOUNT?

I WASN'T SUMMONED, FRIDAY. I WAS OFFERED AN INVITATION, WHICH I GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED AS A MATTER OF PROFESSIONAL, INTER-HERO COURTESY.

WHY...I'M NOT SURE YET. I ALREADY PASSED ALONG EVERYTHING MY TEAM LEARNED. BUT WHATEVER THE REASON...



...I DON'T THINK I'LL BE THE ONLY GUEST AT THE PARTY.



CENTRAL PARK.

WHAT IF IT ACTUALLY IS A PARTY? WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE?

YEAH. BUT, FRIDAY, IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED, IT'S THIS--





XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR
MUTANT EDUCATION
AND OUTREACH.

IT'S
NEVER A
PARTY.



STARK.

DAREDEVIL.

BEEN A LITTLE
WHILE, BUT I THOUGHT
OUR PATHS MIGHT CROSS
OVER ALL THIS WOLVERINE
STUFF. KITTY TOLD ME SHE
HAD YOU LOOKING FOR
LOGAN TOO.



YOU FIND
HIM?

SORT OF.
YOU?

SORT OF.
LEARNED SOME
THINGS. NOTHING I'D
CALL PARTICULARLY
PROMISING.

SAME. IN
FACT, EVERYTHING
I FOUND WAS THE
EXACT OPPOSITE
OF PROMISING.



THE X-MEN CAN
AFFORD A MANSION...
YOU'D THINK THEY COULD
SPRING FOR A DOORBELL
OR SOMETHING. AN
INTERCOM, MAYBE.

THAT
FORGE GUY
COULD PROBABLY
BUILD THEM AN
INTERCOM,
RIGHT?

SHOULD
I JUST
KNOCK?

STARK...JUST
KNOCK.



HEY.
THANKS FOR
COMING.



AGH!



WHY WOULD
YOU DO THAT?
I HAVE A HEART
CONDITION, YOU
KNOW.

SHORT
ANSWER, TONY...
BECAUSE IT'S
FUNNY.

SHE'S NOT
WRONG.

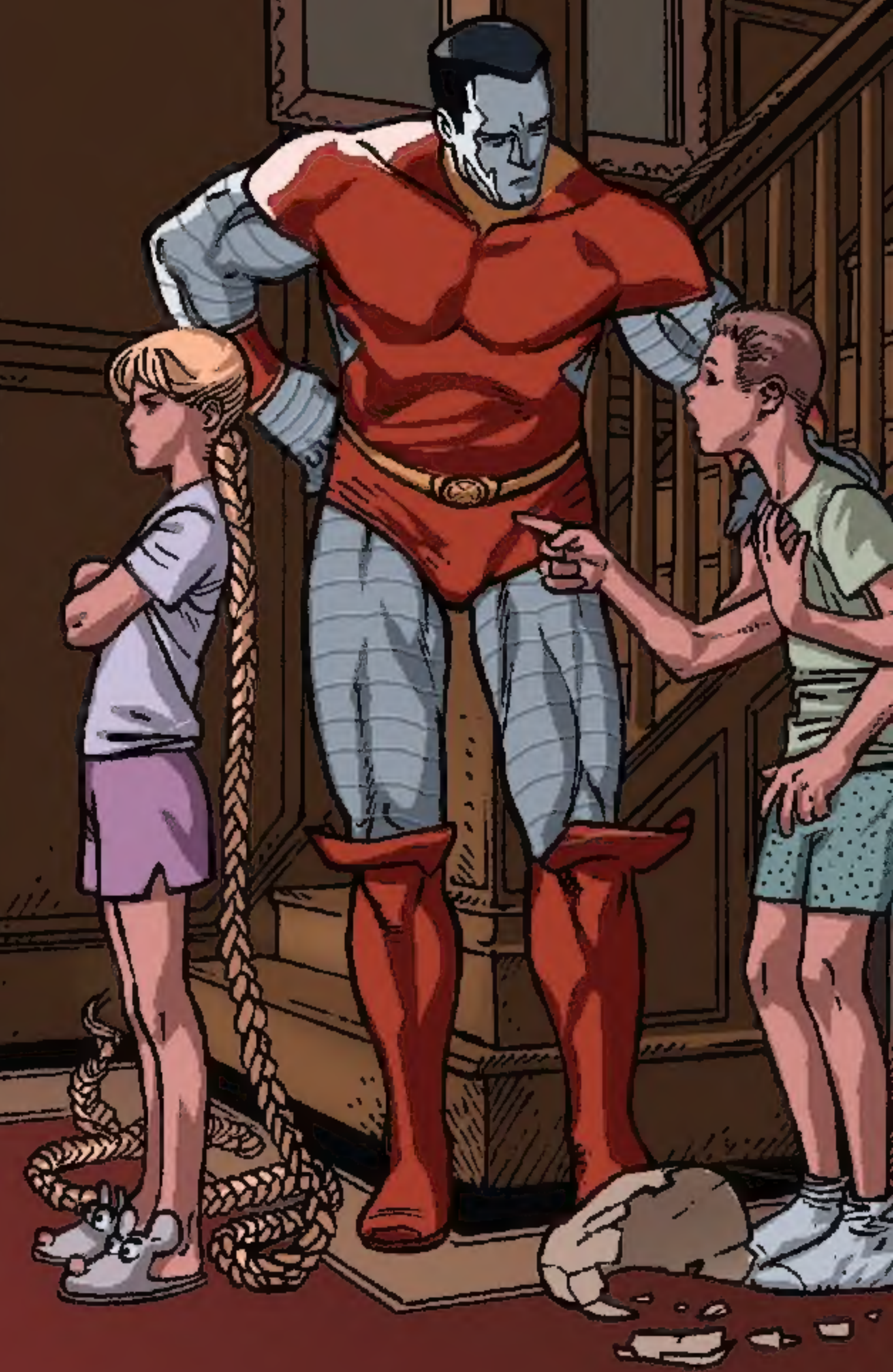


WELCOME
TO THE
X-MANSION.

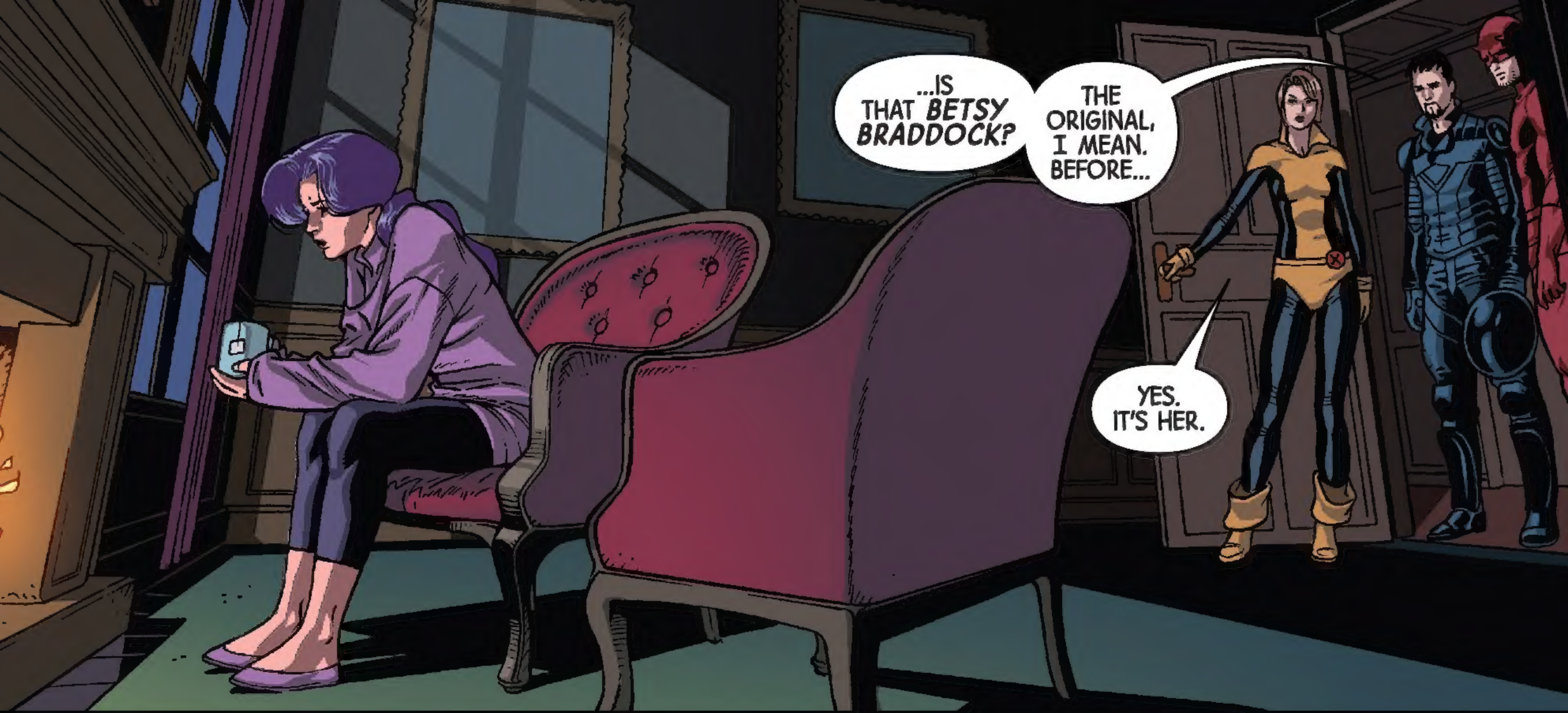
HOPE YOU
SURVIVE THE
EXPERIENCE.

UH...WHAT?
SHOULD WE
BE WORRIED,
KITTY?

NO,
THAT'S JUST
SOMETHING
WE...EH,
FORGET IT.



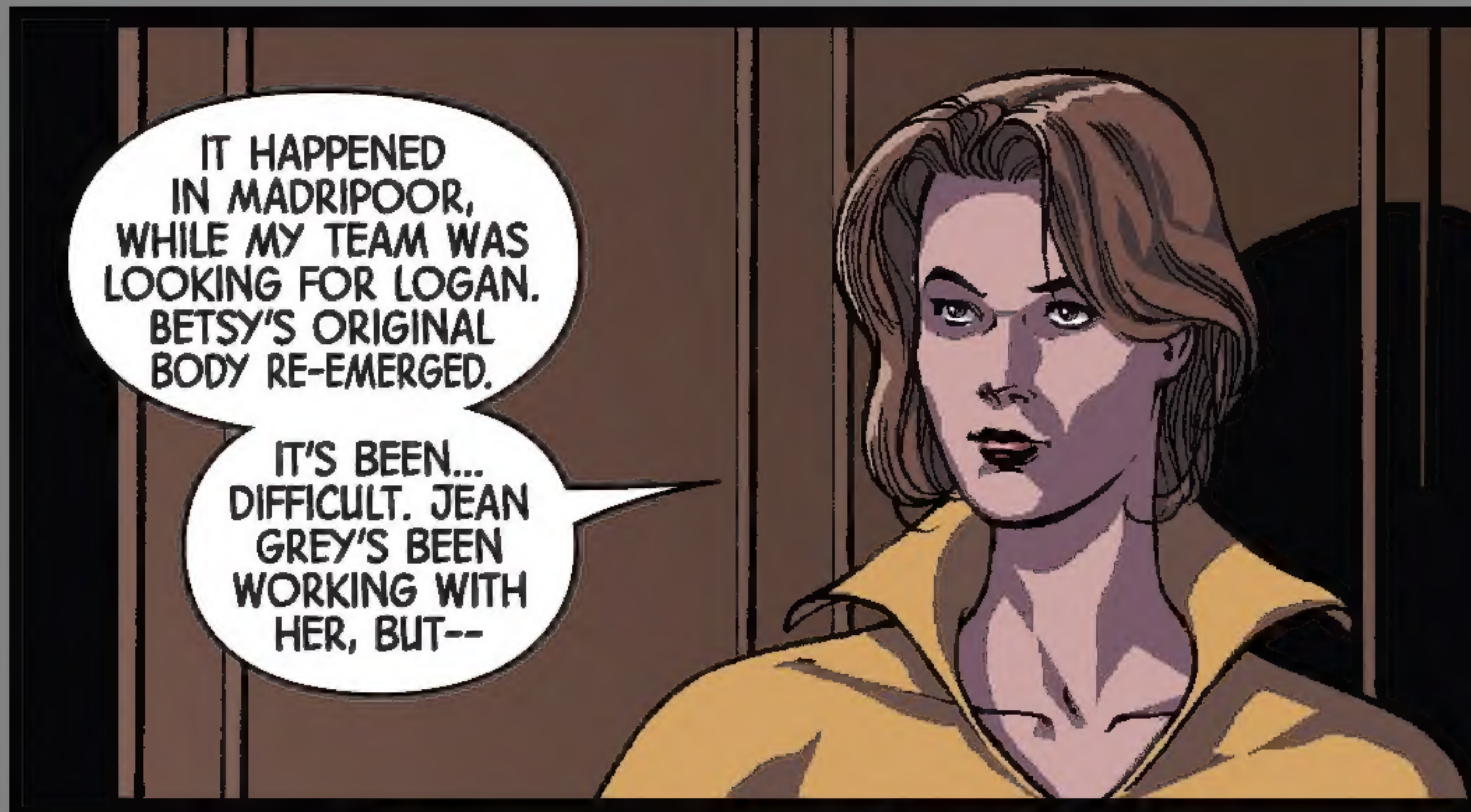
WAIT...



...IS
THAT **BETSY
BRADDOCK**?

THE
ORIGINAL,
I MEAN.
BEFORE...

YES.
IT'S HER.



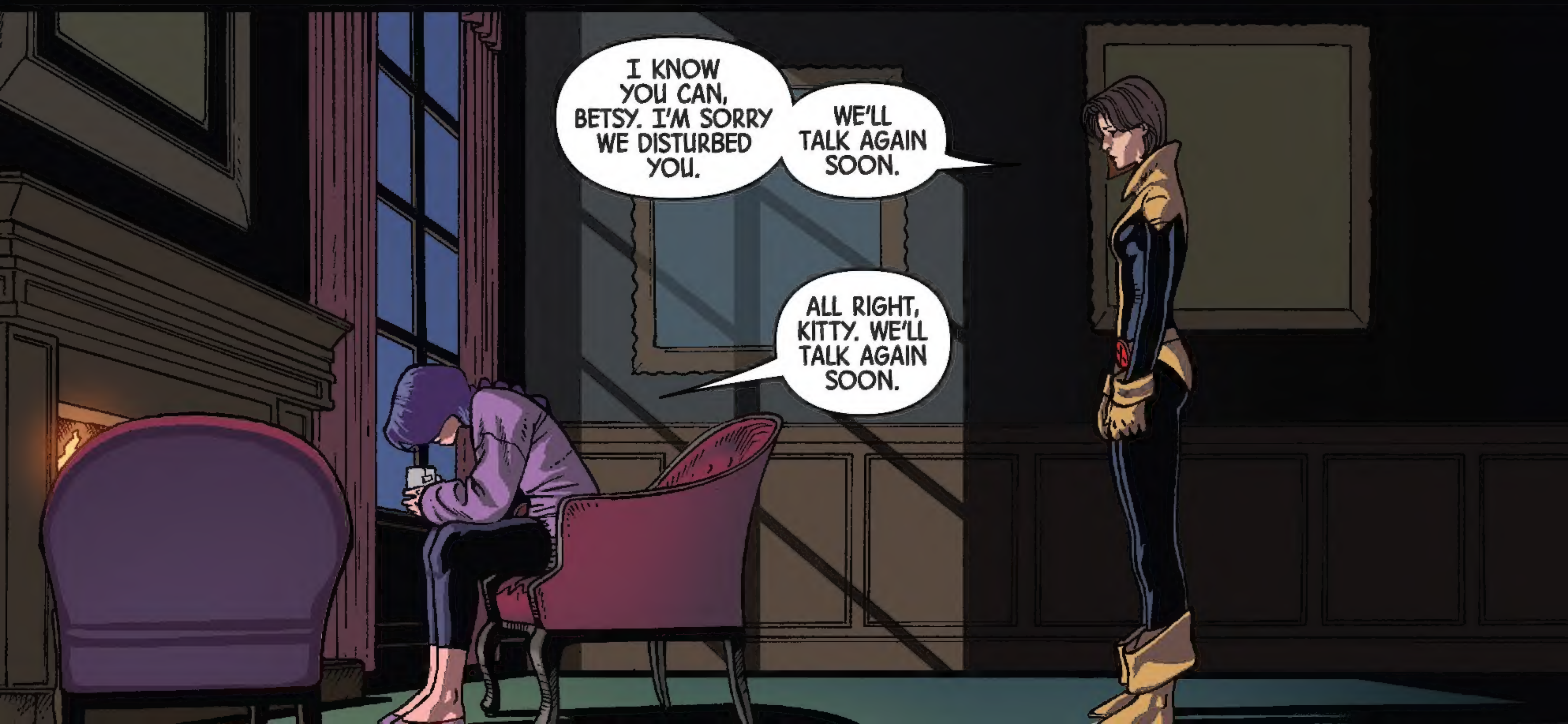
IT HAPPENED
IN MADRIPPOOR,
WHILE MY TEAM WAS
LOOKING FOR LOGAN.
BETSY'S ORIGINAL
BODY RE-EMERGED.

IT'S BEEN...
DIFFICULT. JEAN
GREY'S BEEN
WORKING WITH
HER, BUT--



I CAN HEAR
YOU, YOU KNOW--
AND NOT JUST YOUR
WORDS. WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING ABOUT
ME TOO.

I CAN
HEAR LOTS OF
THINGS.



I KNOW
YOU CAN,
BETSY. I'M SORRY
WE DISTURBED
YOU.

WE'LL
TALK AGAIN
SOON.

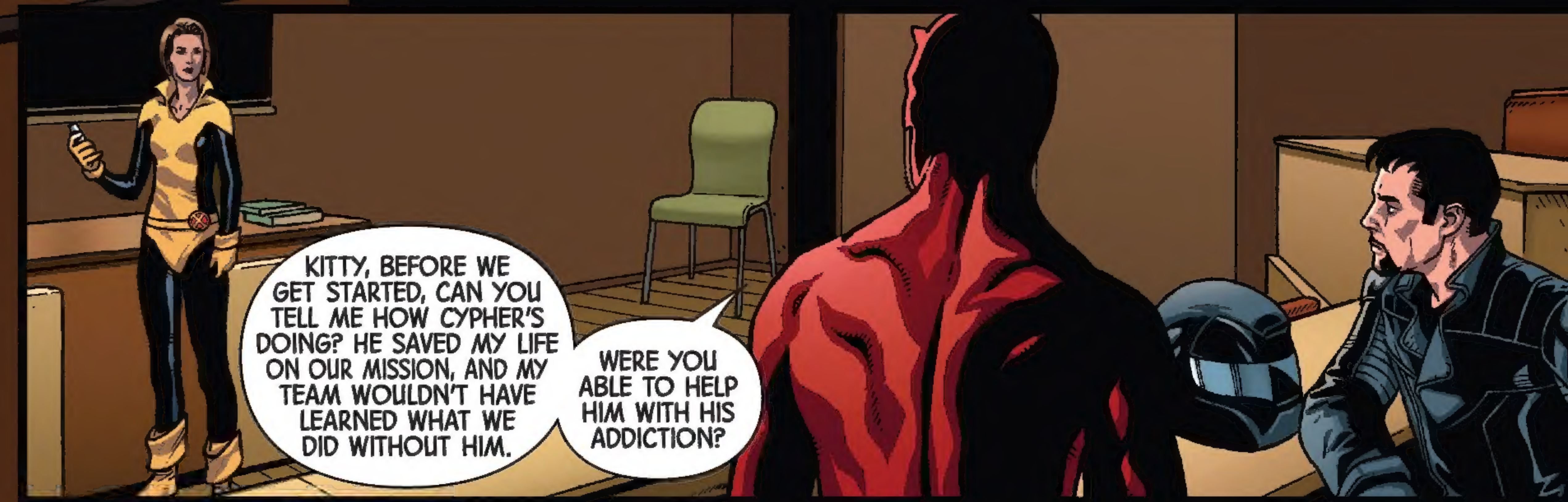
ALL RIGHT,
KITTY. WE'LL
TALK AGAIN
SOON.



PLEASE,
BOTH OF YOU,
TAKE A SEAT.

DIDN'T
KNOW I
WAS SIGNING
UP FOR A
LECTURE.

IT IS A
SCHOOL, STARK.
DIDN'T YOU READ
THE SIGN OUT
FRONT?



KITTY, BEFORE WE
GET STARTED, CAN YOU
TELL ME HOW CYPHER'S
DOING? HE SAVED MY LIFE
ON OUR MISSION, AND MY
TEAM WOULDN'T HAVE
LEARNED WHAT WE
DID WITHOUT HIM.

WERE YOU
ABLE TO HELP
HIM WITH HIS
ADDICTION?



SOMEWHAT.
JEAN'S BEEN
WORKING WITH HIM
TOO. IT'S NOT EASY,
THOUGH. IT HAS ITS
HOOKS IN PRETTY
DEEP.

THE KEY SEEMS
TO BE KEEPING HIM
BUSY. WE'VE BEEN GIVING
HIM PROJECTS TO WORK
ON--WE'LL TALK ABOUT
THAT TODAY TOO.



READY
WHEN YOU ARE,
PROFESSOR.

I'M ALL
EARS.



OKAY.
THESE
ARE THE
PIECES.



WAIT...
YOU MADE A
POWERPOINT?

ME? NO.
I'M WAY
TOO BUSY.

I HAD ONE
OF THE STUDENTS
DO IT FOR EXTRA
CREDIT.



OKAY--THE
IMAGE OF LOGAN'S
SELF-EXPLANATORY. THE
DNA HELIX PROBABLY
REFERS TO GENETICS--
THE DATABASE MY
TEAM FOUND.

BUT
SPACE? AND...
IS THAT A
ZOMBIE?



YES. IT'S
A ZOMBIE.



AS FAR AS
SPACE GOES...I
TOOK A TEAM OF
X-MEN TO MADRIPOOR
AT THE START OF OUR
OWN SEARCH FOR
LOGAN.

WE DIDN'T FIND HIM,
BUT WE DID FIND AN
UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF
ILLICIT SPACE LAUNCHES USING
MADRIPOOR'S ANONYMOUS
FACILITIES, ALL BY THE
SAME COMPANY.

WHY IS
THAT IMPORTANT?
MADRIPOOR RENTS
ITS LAUNCHPADS OUT
TO ANYONE WHO CAN
AFFORD THEM,
NO QUESTIONS
ASKED.

ALL PART
OF THE LARGER
PICTURE.




"THESE GUYS PUT **TONS** OF
STUFF INTO ORBIT--AND WE
DON'T KNOW WHAT, OR WHY.

"WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE
IT OUT, ACCESSING ORBITAL
TRACKING NETWORKS AND
SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING
LIKE A CONSTRUCTION SITE
UP THERE, BUT..."



BUT
**SPACE IS
BIG.**

YES.
SPACE IS
VERY BIG.




TONY, YOU'RE UP. GO OVER WHAT YOU FOUND, THEN WE CAN HEAR FROM DAREDEVIL.

SURE.



I PUT TOGETHER A TEAM--ME, SPIDER-MAN, LUKE CAGE AND JESSICA JONES. WELL, NOT JUST A TEAM. MORE LIKE A REUNION.

WITH WOLVERINE, YOU GUYS MADE UP THE NEW AVENGERS.



"BINGO. IT WAS PERSONAL. LIKE A SEARCH FOR OUR MISSING MAN.

"WE DIDN'T FIND WOLVERINE, BUT WE DID DISCOVER THAT SINISTER HAD A GENETIC DATABASE OF EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING ON EARTH.

"WE WENT AFTER MR. SINISTER. HE STOLE LOGAN'S BODY RIGHT AFTER ITS DEATH, AND WE THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE DONE IT AGAIN.


"I MEAN *EVERYONE*, FROM D-MAN TO VON DOOM. I GOT A QUICK LOOK AT IT--SOME REAL SURPRISES IN THERE, LET ME TELL YOU."



WHERE IS IT NOW?

I DESTROYED IT, OF COURSE. IT WAS BASICALLY A SUPERWEAPON, AND I MEAN...YOU DON'T LET THE GUY WHO CALLS HIMSELF MR. SINISTER KEEP HIS SUPERWEAPONS.

THE ONLY THING IS...SOMEONE STOLE A COPY OF IT FROM HIM BEFORE WE GOT THERE.



OKAY--REMEMBER THAT PART. DAREDEVIL, YOUR TURN.



I PUT TOGETHER A TEAM TOO.

ME, FRANK MCGEE, MISTY KNIGHT AND CYHER. WE BUILT OUR SEARCH FOR LOGAN LIKE A POLICE INVESTIGATION... FOLLOWED A BUNCH OF LEADS.

MOSTLY DEAD ENDS, BUT WE FOUND A CORPORATION WITH RECORDS OF LOGAN'S ACTIVITIES, TIME-STAMPED AFTER HIS DEATH. VIDEOS, AUDIO, DOCUMENTS.



SO...WE KNOW HE'S OUT THERE. WE KNOW HE'S ALIVE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU SOLVED THE WHOLE THING, THEN. WHAT DID YOU FIND? WHAT IS LOGAN DOING?



EVIL.

THAT BRINGS US TO THE LAST PIECE, THE ZOMBIES.

TURNS OUT OUR TEAMS WEREN'T THE ONLY PEOPLE LOOKING. LADY DEATHSTRIKE, DAKEN AND SABRETOOTH WENT OUT TOO, AND I KNOW WHAT THEY FOUND.

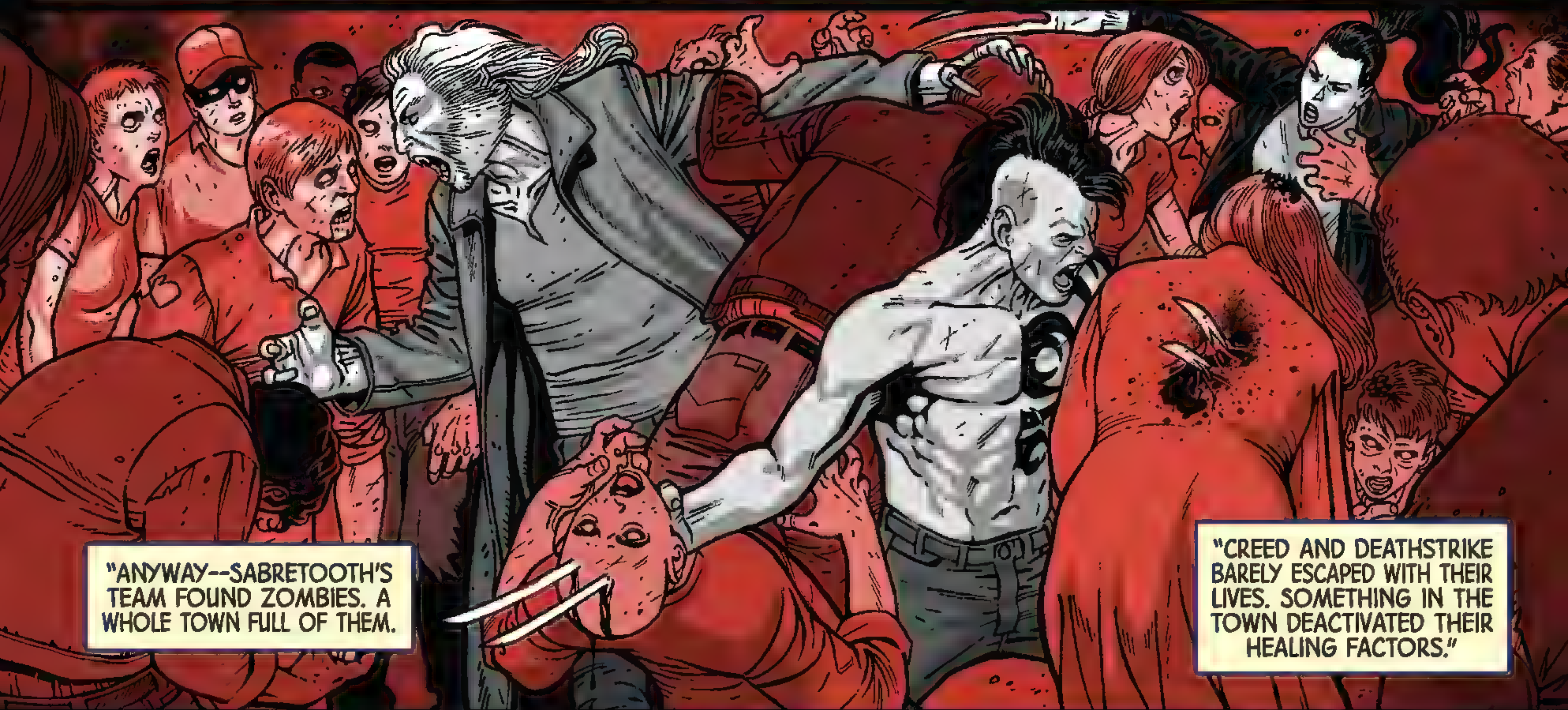
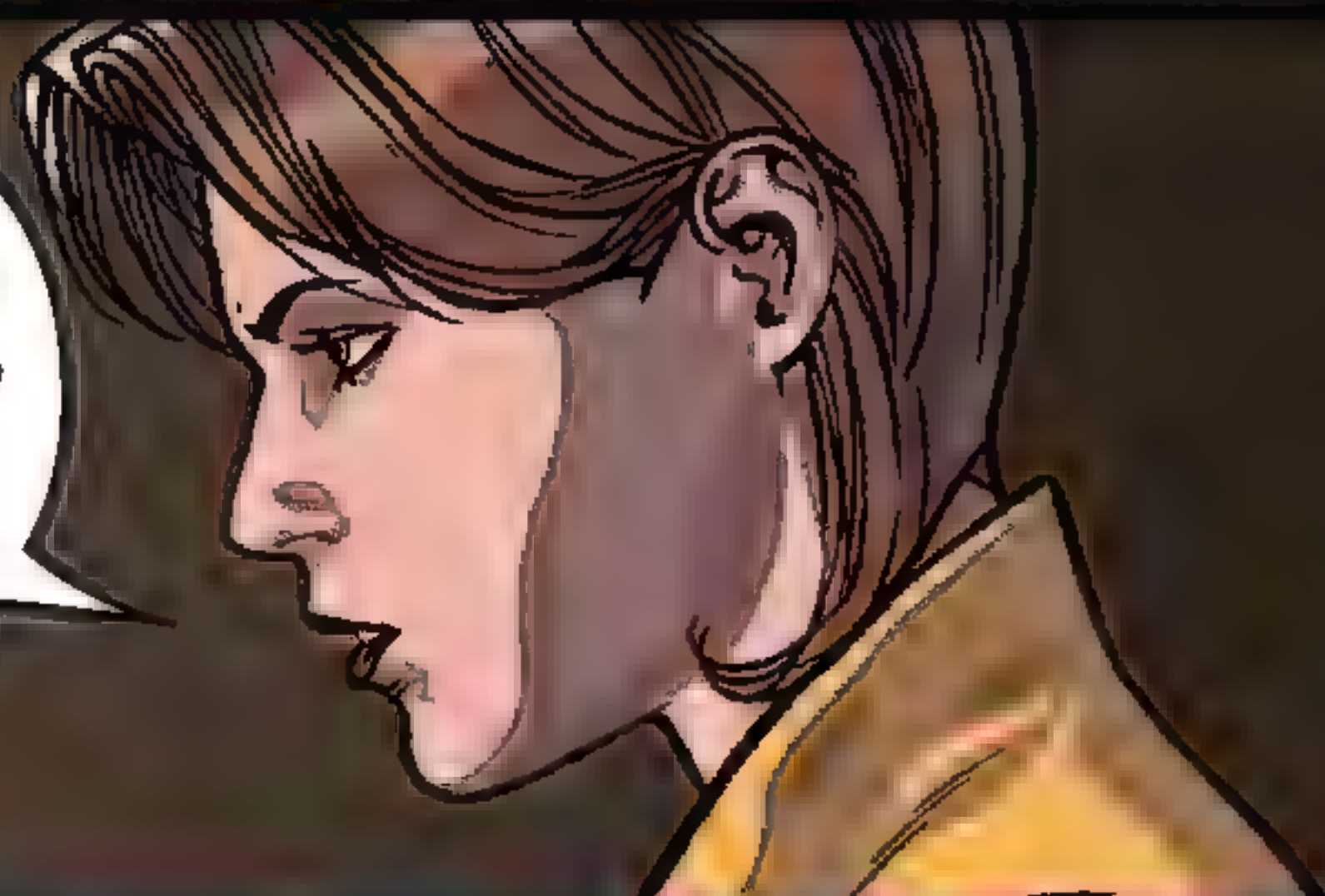
WAIT. WHY WERE *THEY* LOOKING FOR WOLVERINE? DON'T THEY ALL HATE HIM? I'D THINK THEY'D WANT HIM TO STAY DEAD.



EXACTLY. THAT'S WHY THEY WERE LOOKING. IF LOGAN WAS BACK, THEY WANTED TO KILL HIM AGAIN.

I ONLY KNOW ABOUT IT BECAUSE SABRETOOTH GOT IN TOUCH. VICTOR CREED'S... IN A STRANGE PLACE RIGHT NOW. CONFLICTED.

HE WANTS TO ATONE FOR PAST SINS, I THINK--PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE, BUT ANYTHING THAT KEEPS HIM FROM GOING ON KILLING SPREES IS FINE BY ME.



"ANYWAY--SABRETOOTH'S TEAM FOUND ZOMBIES. A WHOLE TOWN FULL OF THEM.

"CREED AND DEATHSTRIKE BARELY ESCAPED WITH THEIR LIVES. SOMETHING IN THE TOWN DEACTIVATED THEIR HEALING FACTORS."

YOU DIDN'T MENTION DAKEN.

THAT'S BECAUSE HE *DIDN'T* ESCAPE WITH HIS LIFE. TRAGIC.



OKAY. A BUNCH OF THINGS GOING INTO SPACE, A STOLEN GENETIC DATABASE WITH CODE FOR EVERYONE ON EARTH, A ZOMBIE TOWN AND EVIL WOLVERINE.

WHAT DOES ALL THAT HAVE IN COMMON? WHAT TIES IT ALL TOGETHER?

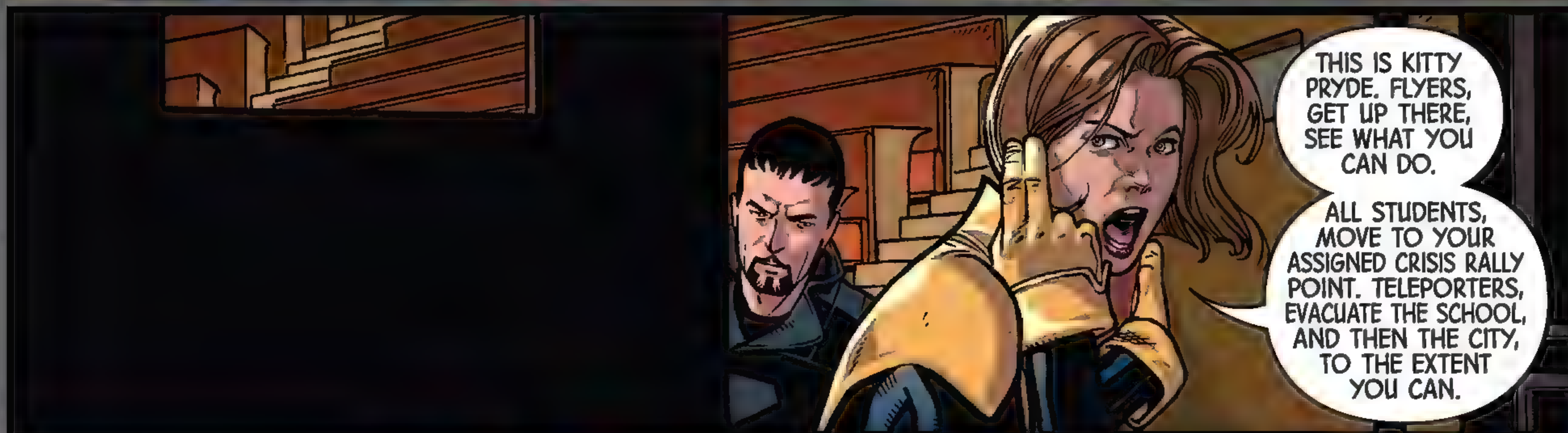


KLK

ONE WORD.









FRIDAY! SUIT!
HEAVY WEAPONS
CONFIGURATION.

YOU GOT
IT, TONY.



KCHK



WHAM



LADIES.

HELLO,
STARK.



I THINK THIS IS THE LAST OF THE STUDENTS.

NO.



"TWO MORE ARE HIDING IN A CLOSET UPSTAIRS."



HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I JUST KNOW. I CAN SEE THEM. DON'T WORRY.



I'LL GET THEM.



ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY, PROFESSOR PRYDE?

OF COURSE, LORIMER. WE'RE THE X-MEN.

WE'RE ALWAYS OKAY.



WHAT ARE WE DEALING WITH?

MY SYSTEM'S TELLING ME ALL FOUR ARE SOLID TUNGSTEN, THEY'RE AIMED AT THE SCHOOL AND THEY'VE ALL REACHED TERMINAL VELOCITY. THAT'S GOOD AND BAD, FIRESTAR.

MEANS THEY WON'T GET ANY FASTER, SO WE CAN MATCH THEIR PACE. BUT IT ALSO MEANS THEY'RE EXTREMELY FAST.

THAT IS NOT THE ONLY BAD NEWS. I SEE FOUR RODS...



...AND ONLY THREE OF US.



OKAY, STORM-- SO THE FIRST ONE OF US TO DEAL WITH A ROD MOVES ON TO THE LAST ONE.

SEEMS LIKE A PLAN. IF EVEN ONE OF THEM HITS, THE SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING AROUND IT BECOMES VAPOR. WE CAN'T LET THEM REACH THE GROUND.



AGREED.





KITTY! THREE OF THE FOUR RODS ARE SQUARED AWAY. I'M GOING AFTER THE LAST ONE, BUT JUST IN CASE...EVERYONE'S OUT, RIGHT?



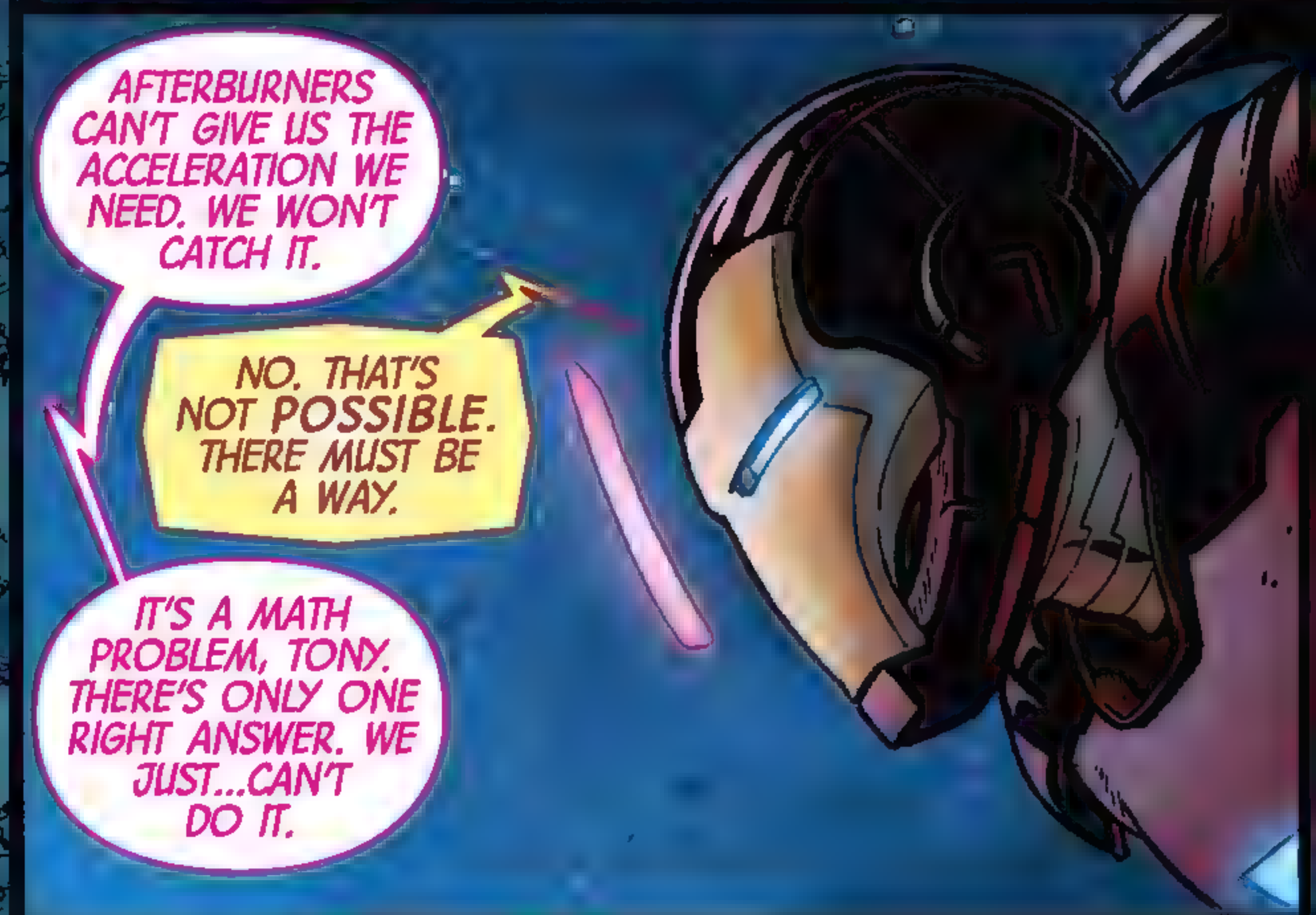
EVERYONE'S OUT OF THE SCHOOL, TONY. I'M NOT SURE IF WE GOT THEM TO A SAFE DISTANCE, BUT WE'VE DONE OUR BEST IN THE TIME WE HAD.

KITTY... WE MUST GO, RIGHT NOW.



NO. BUT---

I SAID NO. AND IF YOU TRY TO TELEPORT ME OUT OF HERE I'LL JUST PHASE. YOU NEED TO LEAVE, KURT. NOT ME. I'M STAYING.



AFTERBURNERS CAN'T GIVE US THE ACCELERATION WE NEED. WE WON'T CATCH IT.

NO. THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. THERE MUST BE A WAY.

IT'S A MATH PROBLEM, TONY. THERE'S ONLY ONE RIGHT ANSWER. WE JUST...CAN'T DO IT.

OKAY.





HELLO!

PLEASE,
GATHER
'ROUND.



NO
HEARTBEAT.

PERHAPS HE
IS AN ANDROID?
OR...WHAT IS THE
TERM...LMD?

NOT HIM.
THE PEOPLE IN
THE SHROUDS.



I APOLOGIZE
FOR THE THEATRICALS
WITH THE ATTACK ON
THE MANSION, BUT I
NEEDED YOU AWAY
SO I COULD SET
ALL OF THIS UP.

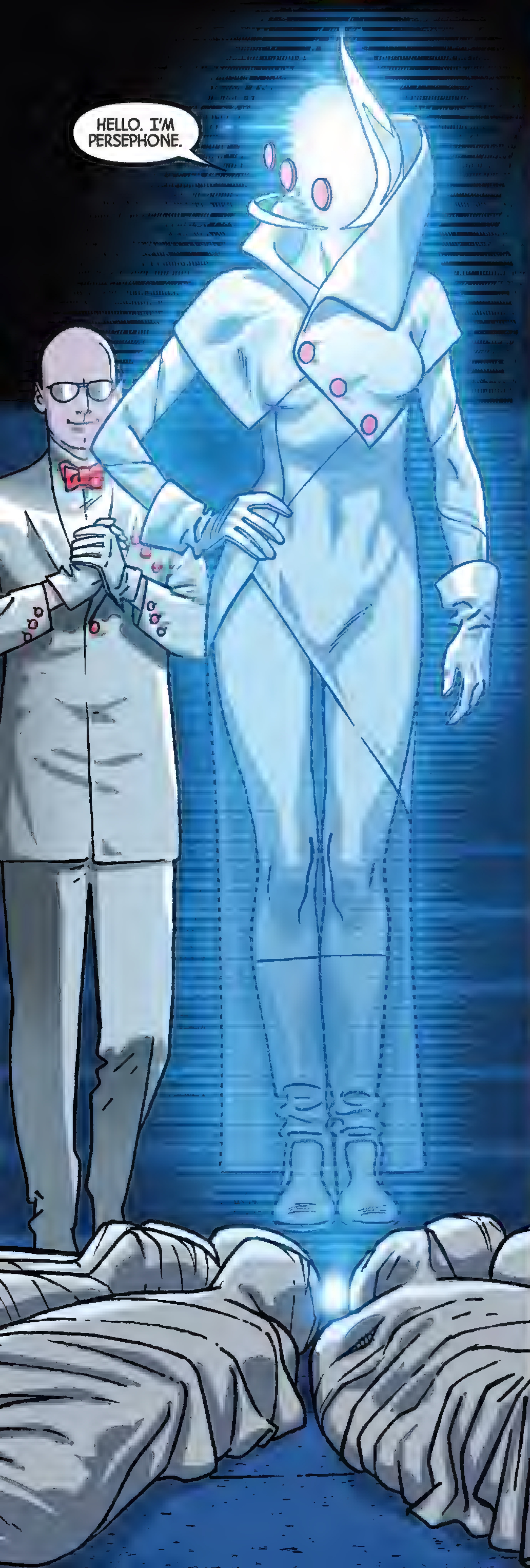
MY LADY
LIKES TO PUT
ON A SHOW.



TEN CORPSES
ON THE X-MEN'S
FRONT LAWN IS
NOT A **SHOW**.

WHAT IS
THIS?

I'LL
LET **HER**
EXPLAIN.



HELLO. I'M PERSEPHONE.



IRON MAN, DAREDEVIL AND A BEVY OF X-MEN. IT IS AN HONOR.

OH, GREAT. ONE OF THESE. I HATE IT WHEN THE BAD GUYS TRY TO BE CHARMING.

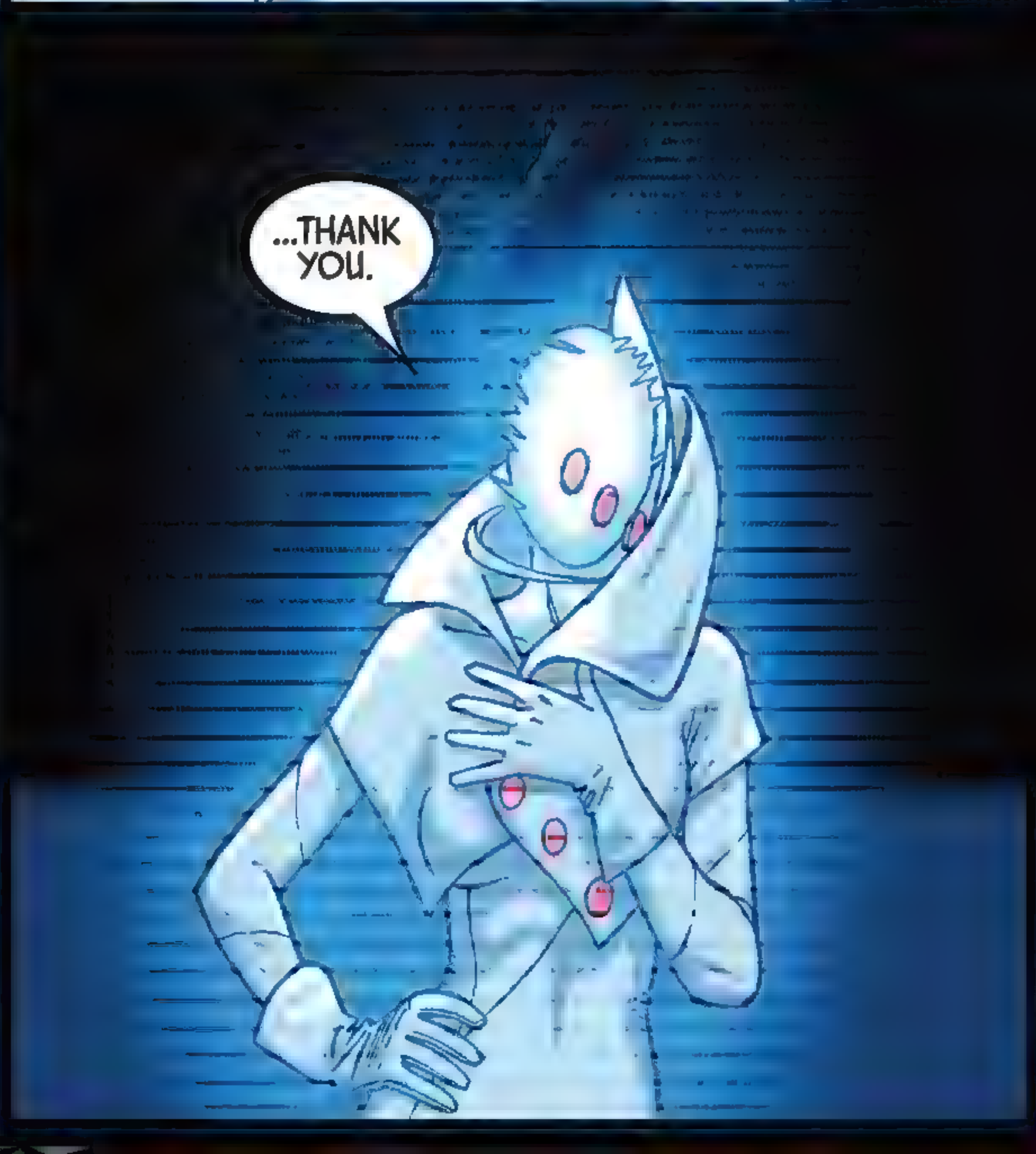
I'LL REITERATE WHAT KITTY SAID, LADY. WHAT IS THIS?



IN TIME. FIRST, LET ME THANK YOU. YOU'VE ALL SAVED THE WORLD SO MANY TIMES.

IF YOU HADN'T, WHERE WOULD I BE NOW? WITHOUT A WORLD, I'D BE LOST.

SO, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, MY SOUL...



...THANK YOU.



TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS...
YES. I HAVE LOGAN.
HE'S DOING GOOD
WORK.

I'M BEHIND
EVERYTHING ELSE
YOU'VE DISCOVERED
AS WELL. IT'S ALL
SOTEIRA, AND
SOTEIRA IS ME.

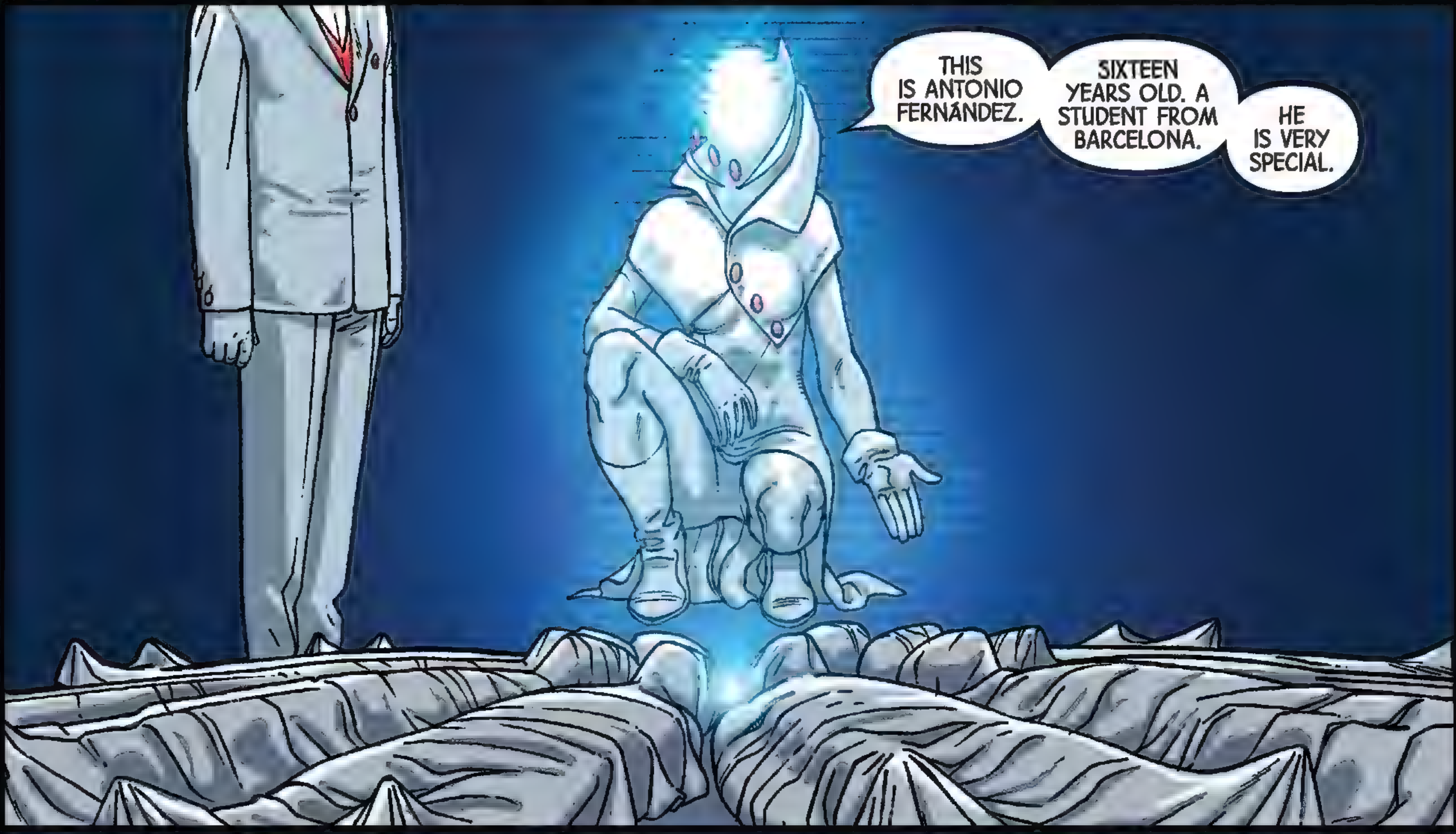
THEN YOU ARE A
FOOL, BECAUSE YOU
HAVE SET THE X-MEN
AGAINST YOU. WHATEVER
YOU'RE DOING...WE WILL
STOP YOU, AND WE
WILL RECLAIM
OUR BROTHER.



YOU
THINK SO,
ORORO?



WELL, I
SUPPOSE I
UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU WOULD FEEL THAT
WAY. AFTER ALL, WE
HAVEN'T TALKED
ABOUT OUR FRIENDS
HERE YET.



THIS
IS ANTONIO
FERNÁNDEZ.

SIXTEEN
YEARS OLD. A
STUDENT FROM
BARCELONA.

HE
IS VERY
SPECIAL.

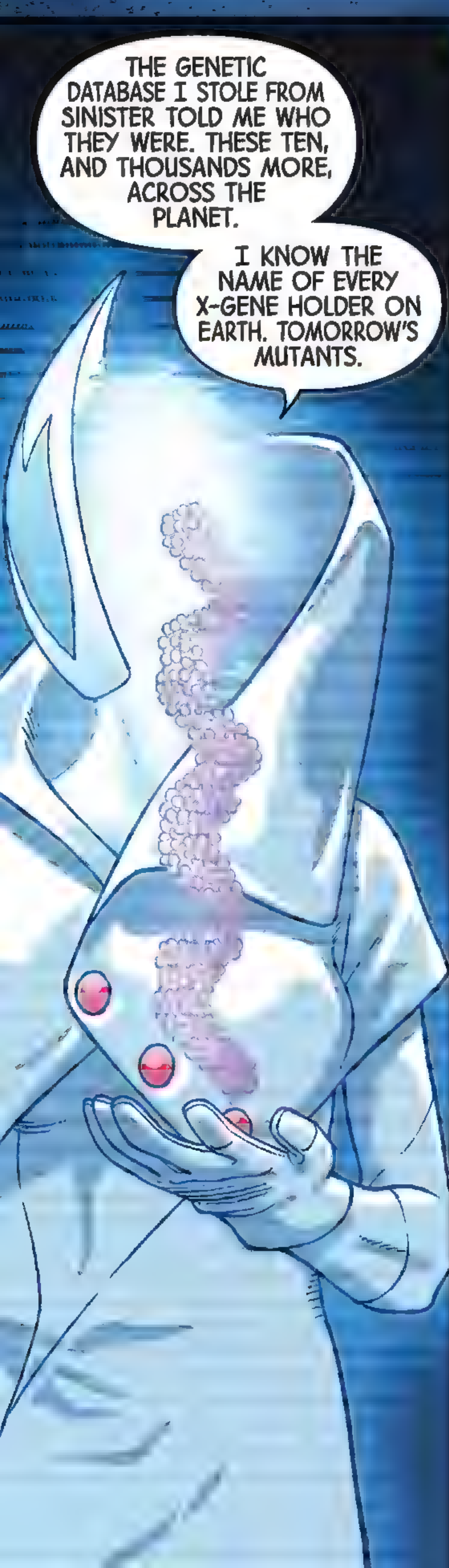


THEY'RE ALL SPECIAL.

FOR YOU SEE, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM POSSESSES THE X-GENE. IT HADN'T MANIFESTED YET, BUT IN TIME...MUTANTS. EVERY LAST ONE.



NO. MEIN GOTT.



THE GENETIC DATABASE I STOLE FROM SINISTER TOLD ME WHO THEY WERE. THESE TEN, AND THOUSANDS MORE, ACROSS THE PLANET.

I KNOW THE NAME OF EVERY X-GENE HOLDER ON EARTH. TOMORROW'S MUTANTS.



I KNOW YOU WANT ANSWERS, CLOSURE. YOU WANT TO CATCH THE VILLAIN. YOU WANT YOUR FRIEND BACK.

BUT I WARN YOU, FRIENDS.

STOP LOOKING.



OR THESE TEN ARE JUST THE



NOW HE
DOESN'T HAVE A
HEARTBEAT EITHER.
DEAD THE MOMENT
PERSEPHONE
ENDED HER
TRANSMISSION.



WE CAN
BEAT THIS. YOU
HAVE A MACHINE THAT
CAN IDENTIFY MUTANTS?
IT'D TAKE SOME WORK,
BUT WE COULD TRACK
DOWN THE X-GENE
HOLDERS, PROTECT
THEM--

NO, STARK.
CEREBRO CAN ONLY DETECT
MUTANTS WHO HAVE MANIFESTED
THEIR POWERS. PERSEPHONE
CHOSE HER TARGETS WELL.



OKAY, SO
WE'LL THINK
OF SOMETHING
ELSE. RIGHT,
PRYDE?

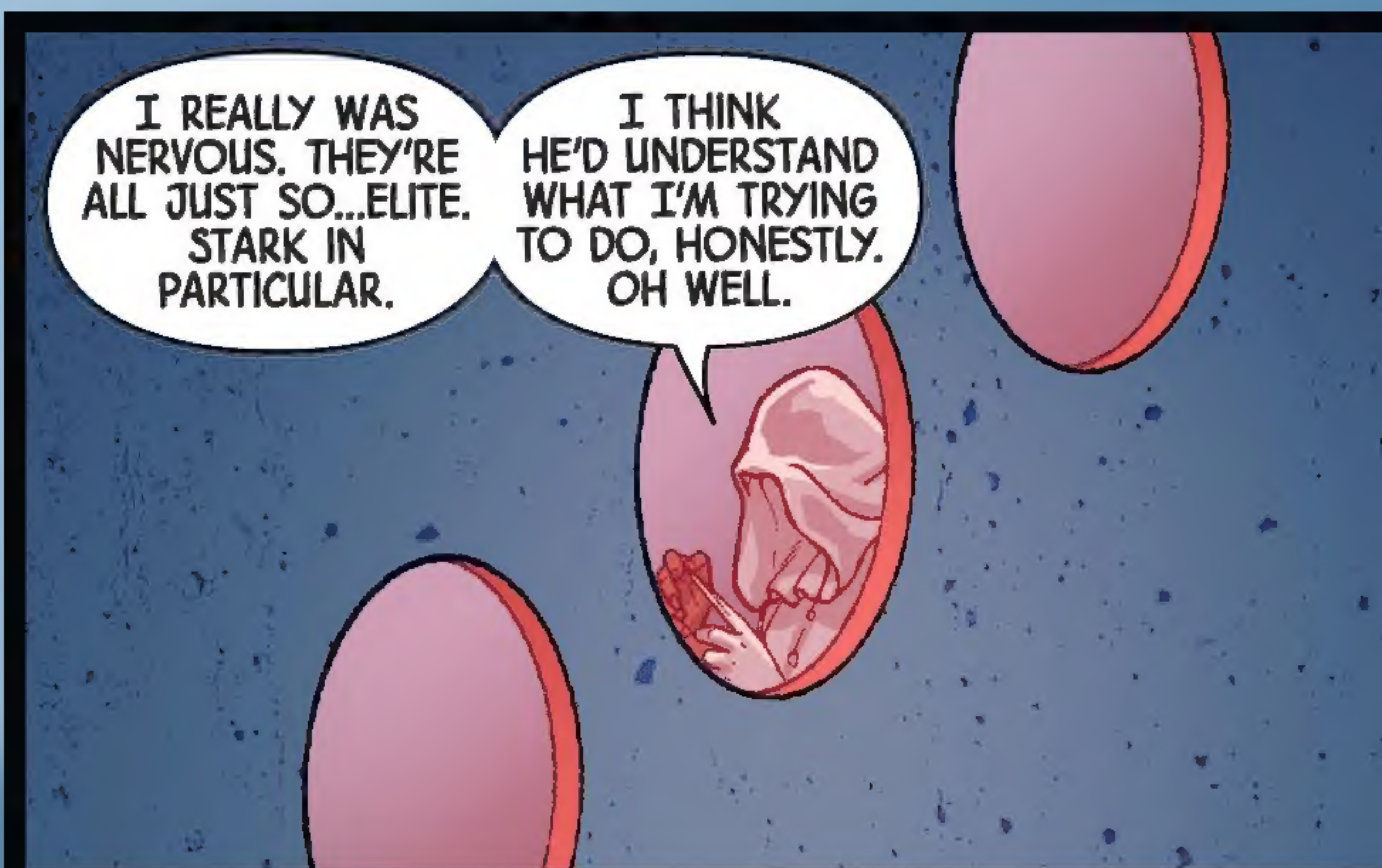
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?

I...





THAT WENT WELL, I THINK.



I REALLY WAS NERVOUS. THEY'RE ALL JUST SO...ELITE. STARK IN PARTICULAR.

I THINK HE'D UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO, HONESTLY. OH WELL.



I HOPE THEY GOT THE MESSAGE. I DON'T LIKE KILLING CHILDREN.



SNIKT



OH. YOU DIDN'T LIKE THAT. I UNDERSTAND.

DON'T WORRY, LOGAN.



THIS WILL
ALL BE OVER
SOON.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN
RETURN OF WOLVERINE #1!!!**

NEXT...

RETURN OF WOLVERINE #1



